State Health Ministers meeting on Population

*105. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:†
SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the decisions taken by the State Health Ministers at their recent two-day meeting at New Delhi for tackling the population problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House, the following decisions were taken by the State Health Ministers at their two-day meeting (6-7 January, 1992) at New Delhi for tackling the population problem:

(i) It was unanimously resolved that the foremost priority should be given to population control programmes.

(ii) The strategies outlined in the paper prepared by the Department of Family Welfare Population Control: Challenges and Strategies" were unanimously and fully supported.

(iii) The Action Plan for giving the requisite thrust and dynamism to the Family Welfare Programme was also unanimously endorsed.

(iv) In order to remove the uncertainity about the Family Welfare Programme at the end of every Five Year Plan, there should be a long-term strategy which should extend to at least 25 years and preferably upto 33 years.

(v) With a view to bringing about effective inter-sectoral coordination, carrying out periodical monitoring and giving much needed political support for population control efforts in the country, Apex Bodies may be set up at the Centre as well as State levels.

(vi) A comprehensive National Population Policy may be evolved which should lay-down demographic goals to be reached by the country and the strategies required to be adopted for reaching these goals.

(vii) Increasingly greater stress should be placed on the qualitative aspects of the Family Welfare Programme, rather than the quantitative aspects with focus on the reduction in birth rate and decline in fertility rates.

(viii) The State Governments and Union Territories Administration should attach paramount importance to improve the quality and out-reach of health and family welfare services with adequate funding support for proper maintenance and running of the requisite infrastructure and services.

(ix) The State Governments and Union Territories Administration would pay special attention for evolving coordination, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms suited to their needs and see that the system works efficiently.

(x) The requirement of infrastructure and services for strengthening Family Welfare Programme in 90 specially identified districts (Crude Birth Rate of 39 per thousand and above as per 1981 Census) would be carefully identified by the State Governments concerned through micro-planning.

(xi) A special thrust would be given both at the Centre and the State levels for involvement of non-Governmental organisations and voluntary agencies in the Family Welfare Programme. At the State/District level, considerable promotional efforts would have to be made to encourage the people at the grass-root level to come forward and participate in the Programme, whether in the form of voluntary agencies or through the existing institutions such as Panchayats, Cooperatives and Municipal Bodies, etc.

(xii) The proposal specifically projected by the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister which is an integral part of the above mentioned paper on "Challenges and Strategies", of debarring persons, prospectively from a stipu-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. Gopalsamy.

lated date, those who do not adopt the small family norm, from elective offices from Panchayat to Parliament, was unanimiously accepted.

(xiii) It was decided that incentives and disincentives for adoption of the small family norm need to be reviewed carefully. It was also stressed that incentives may also be worked out in such a manner that local bodies showing notable/significant progress in the sphere of population control may be rewarded.

(xiv) In order to improve the outreach of family welfare services and supplies in the rural areas, the existing grass-root levels infrastructure and personnel of different Department would also be utilised in order to achieve the commonality of objectives and to optimise the utilisation of all available resources.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The draft action plan adopted in the conference envisages a suggestion...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question briefly and quickly.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: ..that the two-children norm should be made a criterion for eligiblity for all those holding elected offices right from the panchayat to Parliament. That is, for all elected offices the persons occupying them should not have more than two children. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether this will be given a prospective effect or a retrospective effect.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: It should be retrospective.

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I would humbly and in all humility like to say that the modalities of this formula are being worked out. But I would like to assure the honourable Member that there is no question of making it retrospective... (*Interruptions*)... It will be prospective... (*Interruptions*)... Some of the people had asked what we mean by "prospective... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That they understand... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: 'Prospective' means that if any person has got ten children now, after the appointed day he can not have the eleventh and if he does have he will get the disqualification... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: In one sentence I will finish it, Sir... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Political process for holding elections in J&K

..*106. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any political process for holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, by when the same is proposed to be initiated to install a popular Government there?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) In a bid to restart the political process, a State level Advisory Council has been constituted. The district Advisory Groups are being constituted and with the improvement of the Law and Order situation proper assessment will be made about holding the elections.

Modernisation of National Highways in Haryana

*107. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plans to improve and modernise Na-